

O A K H A M

U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st D E C E M B E R, 1951

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OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
of the  
M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

1951

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	2,250
Registrar General's estimate of population .     ...	3,868
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1951 ..     ...	1,188
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1951     ...     ...	£25,110
Nett product of a penny rate ..     ...     ...     ...	£     96

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	25	29	54
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1</u>
	26	29	55
	<u>----</u>	<u>----</u>	<u>----</u>
Still Births - Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

	<u>Rate for District</u>	<u>Rate for England and Wales</u>
Birth Rate	14.25	15.5
Death Rate	9.5	12.5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	Nil	29.6

It is very gratifying to report that not a single death occurred among infants under one year of age. This is an excellent achievement and one of which the town can be proud. It is a tribute to the maternity and child welfare work carried out by the medical profession.



# CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	3
Coronary disease, angina	2	1
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart disease	1	3
Other circulatory disease	2	1
Influenza	2	3
Pneumonia	1	-
Bronchitis	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1
Suicide	-	1
	-----	-----
	27	19
	=====	=====

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Camb.  
The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Tabberer, Sanitary Inspector's  
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor of the Urban District.

### 2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following examinations in your area were carried out during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester.

Throat Swab	...	...	...	...	...	72
Throat & Nose Swab	...	...	...	...	...	1
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	98
Faeces and Urine	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood, Faeces & Urine	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	24
Blood	...	...	...	...	...	35
Urine Catheter Specimen	...	...	...	...	...	2
Vaginal Swab	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ear Swab	...	...	...	...	...	4
Blood in Dry Bottles	..	...	...	...	...	2
Pleural Fluid	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fluid from Chest	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pleural Effusion	...	...	...	...	...	2
Midstream urine	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood count.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pus from Cervical Gland	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nasal Mucus	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebrospinal Fluid	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pus from abscess	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pus from Intra Abdominal abscess	..	...	...	...	...	2
	-----					
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water	...	...	...	...	...	21





## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Bacteriological      Chemical

1. (i) WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis :-

(a) from wells	...	...	...	nil	-
(b) from piped supply	...	...		17	-
(c) At sources of public supply				4	-

Results of samples taken :-

(a) from wells	- unsatisfactory	...	-	-
	satisfactory	...	-	-
(b) from piped	- unsatisfactory	...	6	-
	satisfactory	...	11	-
(c) at sources	- unsatisfactory	...	2	-
	satisfactory	...	2	-

The unsatisfactory samples were all after the middle of November, for a short period.

The public supply was fully maintained throughout the year, but due to shortages at times, softening was not continuous.

The Council's water undertaking extends to all but 27 houses in the Urban District, and supplies are given to Braunston, Burley and parts of Ashwell and Barleythorpe in the Rural District of Oakham.

11 of the 27 houses referred to are situated where there is a main and it is reasonable to expect them to connect.

Over 800 taps etc. were adjusted or re-washed free of charge.

98% of the houses and a rather higher percentage of the population of the Urban District are supplied by the Council. In some cases the water is not laid into the houses, and, in a few cases, one tap is shared by two or more houses.

The provision of an adequate water supply for the town still remains as the major sanitary problem confronting the Council. During the year a tender was accepted for a new bore close to the existing water works.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE


The main outfall sewer has been improved by diversion of the flow into a lower level sewer which was laid last year.

There are 47 houses not connected to the public sewer, but to cesspools or septic tanks and filters, of which there are 20.

(iii) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in the District at the end of 1951 :-

(1)	Privies	...	...	...	...	...	-
(2)	Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	30
(3)	Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	approx. 1,600



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(iii) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION (CONTINUED)

Number of privies and Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system during the year ... 2

21 of these 30 houses lack either piped water or sewer. The remaining 9 are mostly at old houses which are likely to be demolished when the housing situation is eased.

(iv) PUBLIC CLEANSING

One man was engaged part time on the Refuse Tip with beneficial results. The tip is kept practically free from rats and no fly nuisance occurs. The Council use a Karrier Bantam petrol-driven refuse collecting vehicle, and the work is done in 5 days each week.

Salvage work is active and besides minimising smoke and other tipping difficulties gives useful revenue to Rate fund.

The small quantity of nightsoil is now tipped at the Sewage Disposal Works.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received ... 17  
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered arising out of complaints ... 18

Nature of Inspections

Number of Inspections and Revisits.

	Dwelling houses (all purposes)	...	...	215
	Tents, Vans, etc.	...	...	-
£	Slaughter houses	...	...	-
	Food premises	...	...	60
	Dairies	...	...	10
	Offensive trades	...	...	-
	Animal keeping	...	...	10
	Factories, etc.	...	...	20
	Shops	...	...	25
	Other premises	...	...	55
	Water wastage	...	...	95
				-----
				490
				-----

£ Slaughtering takes place at the Central Abattoir, Melton Mowbray.

During the year some complaints were received in regard to conditions affecting the transport of meat. The matter was taken up with the appropriate Authorities and an improvement resulted.



## N O T I C E S

<u>Preliminary</u>		<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1951	...	1	4
Issued during the year	... ..	2	3
Complied with during year	... ..	3	7
Outstanding 31st December, 1951	...	-	-
Statutory action necessary	... ..	-	-

### Statutory

Outstanding 1st January, 1951	... ..	-	-
Issued during the year	... ..	-	-
Complied with during year	... ..	-	-
Outstanding 31st December 1951	.. ...	-	-

Most of the work is done by letter, interview or telephone, and few formal notices, either preliminary or statutory, are used. Some nuisances, such as blockages in drains, are abated by Council men, this being considered the quickest method.

An important event during the year affecting the health and prosperity of the town and district was the completion of a new hosiery factory for Messrs. Corah employing about 35 men and 170 women and replacing a far less satisfactory one which was destroyed by fire.

This factory is most modern and hygienic and has well equipped kitchen and canteen and surgery and well lit and ventilated Offices.

A further development which may affect the town even more, is a new works and offices of Messrs. Woodall-Duckham Vertical Retort and Oven Construction Company, situated to the north of the town, which will bring in about 30 families at once.

The Council has given certain undertakings to house the families who will be brought in and six of the houses now being completed have been let to them as a first instalment.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

One burial was arranged and paid for by the Council under Section 50. No recovery of expenses took place as there were no assets.

No action was necessary under Section 47 which provides for the "Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention".

### CONTROL OF RATS

The Council has joined with the Rural District Councils of Oakham and Ketton to employ an efficient pest control Officer. All complaints are promptly dealt with and there is less evidence of rats than ever before.





## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No houses were found to be infested during the year and therefore, no action was necessary.

## SCHOOLS

The Secondary School is a modern well-lighted building; so also are the Junior House, "Wharflands" and "Deanscroft". The others are mainly old-fashioned, but the sanitary conditions are reasonably satisfactory and the water supply is good. A new Primary School is planned and this will be in the north eastern part of the district where housing development is in progress.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The swimming bath is owned by the School Trustees and loaned to the Council. Five inspections were made during the season.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

At the end of the year there were five distributors and three premises registered. 10 inspections of premises were made by your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

No action was found necessary under Regulation 20 - Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Dealers and Supplementary Licences for retailing specially designated milk were issued during the year as follows :-

Tuberculin Tested.	Pasteurised.	Sterilised
2	2	1

During the year one firm holding a Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised licence went out of business.

One sample was taken and was found to be satisfactory.

### ICE CREAM

No ice-cream is now made in Oakham.

### MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES, ETC.

Number of inspections ... .. 10 .

46 lbs. bacon and ham was surrendered as unfit. It was all imported.





PLACES WHERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) IS KEPT OR  
PREPARED FOR SALE.

Number of inspections ... .. 50

117 lbs. of tinned meat and 121 lbs. of other canned foods were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

Most of the canned meat was of German origin.

The revival of the open market has been closely watched and Food Handling Bye-Laws adopted by the Council in July 1950 are applied here, and at the shops in the town.

A meeting of Food Traders was held during the summer when an interesting discussion took place on the application of the Bye-Laws.

The cordial co-operation of the Traders has been obtained, and from inspections which I have made with the Sanitary Inspector, I am of opinion that generally speaking the Food Shops in the town are well conducted with due observance to hygiene.

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H O U S I N G

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a) (i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ... .. 140

(ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. 215

(b) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... .. -

(c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. ... -

(d) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 7

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF  
FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... .. 3

House demolished without necessity of Demolition Order ... .. 1



## HOUSING (CONTINUED)

### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

1936 :- Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act,

Number of dwelling houses demolished in  
pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. -

Number of dwelling houses which were  
rendered fit after service of formal notice  
under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... -

Number of dwelling houses in which defects  
were remedied after service of Formal  
Notice served under Public Health Act, 1936 ... -

### 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) Number of dwelling houses known to be overcrowded  
at the end of 1951 ... .. 2

(b) Number of families dwelling therein ... .. 2

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein ... .. 11

There are a few cases where houses are uncomfortably full,  
but are not overcrowded by the Standards laid down in the Housing  
Act, 1936.

Two cases of overcrowding, involving 13 persons, were  
abated in 1951. These two families have been allocated houses.  
The average number of persons per house was probably never so low.

There were, (at 31st December 1951), living at Oakham,  
80 applicants for Council Houses. At least 9 of these persons  
are sharing houses with parents or others. 73 persons now  
outside the Urban District also require houses here. In addition  
14 persons await completion of houses allotted to them.

Applications are constantly being received from families  
who are urgently in need of a Council house.

During the year 37 Council houses and 12 private houses  
were completed. One building was re-adapted to make a house  
after being used as a store for about 25 years. Three others  
were re-conditioned and provided with modern conveniences.

At the end of 1951 the Council owned 214 houses, in  
addition to 10 temporary bungalows rented from the Ministry.





PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Dysentery	14	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Scarlet fever	3	-	-
Measles	2	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-

Dysentery - This disease is becoming increasingly prevalent owing to communal feeding habits and lack of cleanliness. As the attack is often mild and of short duration, in many cases a doctor is not consulted and the disease is passed on to others. Close supervision of food shops and education of the public in the rules of hygiene are necessary if the disease is to be checked.

Four of the cases were at one house.

Scarlet fever. - This disease is now of a mild type.

It is noteworthy that no case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

A G E G R O U P S

	Under one	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{15}{20}$	$\frac{20}{35}$	$\frac{35}{45}$	$\frac{45}{64}$	65 & over
Dysentery	-	1	-	1	1	3	2	-	2	2	2	-
Food poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-



# T U B E R C U L O S I S

AGE GROUP	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Mass Radiography Unit disclosed 2 cases in the Urban District.

There were 23 cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1951.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,  
Melton Mowbray.

